

“Spiff the Biffs” Collection

Collection number: B600, Accession #: 2021.402.0001

Collection Repository: Hennepin History Museum
2302 Third Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55404

Collection Title: “Spiff the Biffs” Collection

Dates: 1988-2002 (bulk 1997-2002)

Extent: 1 box

Creator: Spiff the Biffs Committee

Language of the material: English

Processed by: Katherine Stotis

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

“Spiff the Biffs” Project purpose was to restore the historic Lake Harriet bathrooms (1998-2002). Spiff is a term that is defined as improving the appearance of or making presentable. Biffs is a term for a toilet and a Minnesota toilet company. These bathrooms are still in use.

Harry Wild Jones, a Minneapolis architect, designed two bathrooms in 1891. These bathrooms are known for their pagoda-inspired architecture. They were closed in 1990 due to their disrepair. This is listed in the newspaper articles in the research folder. The biffs are one of the oldest buildings that are still in use by the Minneapolis Parks system. In 1998, the local grassroots campaign was successful in collaborating with private donors and neighborhood organizations to restore the bathrooms to their former glory.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection is primarily concerned with the fundraising efforts (The garden party) and the opening ceremony (Grand opening). The dates are listed as 1997-2002, but the archivist located some materials from the late 1980s. The archivist added additional research in the “archivist’s notes” folder. This collection details the work of the Minneapolis Park & Recreation board, neighborhood organizations, and the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota.

The collection is arranged in two series with no sub-series. The series include:

Series 1: The Garden Party

Series 2: The Grand Opening

ACCESS

The collection is open to researchers and has no restrictions.

COPYRIGHT

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RELATED MATERIAL

There are relevant clippings about Lake Harriet and the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board in the library.

ACQUISITION

The collection was found in the museum without information about provenance.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Folder No.</u>	
1	1	Archivist Notes
1	2	Proclamation

Series 1: Garden Party

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Folder No.</u>	
1	3	“Scrapbook”
1	4	Press Releases
1	5	Architectural Drawings
1	6	Media Information
1	7	Invites
1	8	Budget
1	9	Donors
1	10	Invoices
1	11	Pamphlets

Series 2: Grand Opening

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Folder No.</u>	
1	12	Schedule

1	13	Opening Ceremony
1	14	Committee Contacts
1	15	Minutes
1	16	Funding
1	17	Research
1	18	Architectural drawings
1	19	Landscaping
1	20	Press Release 1
1	21	Press Release 2
1	22	Pictures
1	23	Miscellaneous



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